Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

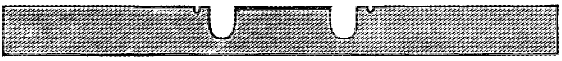
Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

A NEW FORM OF LIFE-SLIDE.

By James H. Logan, Pittsburgh, Pa.

In the examination of living forms many have doubtless experienced difficulty in preserving fine specimens alive for prolonged observation. After resorting to various expedients, the writer was led to devise the life-slide herein described, and although it may not be altogether perfect, it appears to afford so many advantages that it is worthy of consideration.



The slide consists of a glass slip of the usual size, but ¼ inch thick. An annular channel as deep as the thickness of slide allows is ground out for an air-space, and outside of this a much narrower and quite shallow channel is cut. This last is for holding beeswax or wax and oil, to cement down the cover and prevent evaporation of inclosed fluid. A drop of water placed in center of slide and flattened down to a stratum as thin as the objects under examination will permit, is in a very favorable condition for examination. The Infusoria, thus confined, can move freely in every direction except the vertical, and are always in focus. The air channel also serves to hold any excess in the amount of fluid, above that required to fill the area of the circular field.

In this slide Infusoria may be isolated and sealed up, where they may be kept alive and in good condition for a week or more. In some temporary slides, where the air-space was much too small, there being no channel, the rotifers, amœbas and other forms, were alive and active for nearly a week.

Beeswax alone seems the best cement for sealing. If put in a syringe having a very small nozzle, and warmed, the wax may be forced out as a long, thin thread. This can be wound on a spool and kept ready for use when a slide is to be sealed up. A piece long enough to fill the outer channel is placed therein. A glass slip placed over the cover glass, and, pressed down securely, seals the cell and, as the wax is soft, the stratum of fluid can be made as thin as desired.

NOTE.—For picking out Infusoria, or rotifers, a common medicine-dropper with the point drawn out finer than usual seems to me to be the best thing so far devised. With a little practice, one can learn to pick these out under the microscope. For this purpose the microscope should stand vertically, and a plain slide containing a mass of fluid be placed on the stage. When an object is found, the observer draws it into the medicine-dropper and transfers to life-slide.